

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend the paragraph starting in paragraphs [0003] through [0005] at pages 1 through 3 to read, as follows.

[0003]

As shown in Fig. 14 and Fig. 15, a prior art has been disclosed in which an elastic member made of a material, such as felt or rubber, ~~rubber~~ is used as a sealing member 114 for sealing a gap between a developing frame 112 and a developing agent carrier, or a developing roller 109c, at the opposite ends in the longitudinal direction of the developing roller 109c in order to prevent toner from leaking out through the gap between the developing frame 112 of the image forming apparatus and the developing roller 109c toward the end in the longitudinal direction of the developing roller. It is to be noted that although in Fig. 14 it is depicted that there is a gap g between the developing roller 109c and the sealing member 114, this gap g exists only where a magnetic sealing member as described below is used as the sealing member 114 and does not exist where a sealing member of a contact type, ~~[[type]]~~ such as a felt or rubber is used. Sealing below the developing roller 109c is performed by contacting, with the developing roller 109c along the longitudinal direction, a tip of a sheet member 115 formed at the developing frame 112. An end of the sheet member 115 in the longitudinal direction is sandwiched between the developing roller 109c and the sealing member made of a material, such a felt or rubber, ~~rubber~~ to prevent toner from leaking out of the end in the longitudinal direction. Rotation torque of the developing roller 109c is, in this situation, increased due to sliding contact between the developing roller 109c and the sealing member during developing operation.

[0004]

A sealing member, or magnetic sealing member, has been known, as a sealing member 114 disposed at the end of the developing roller 109c, in which a magnet or magnets are placed with a very small gap  $g$  along an outer periphery of the developing roller to seal the toner as a magnetic body by magnetic force from the magnet or magnets, as shown in Fig. 14 and Fig. 15(b) to reduce the rotational torque. In this situation, the developing roller 109c is not in contact with the sealing member 114, and the gap  $g$  exists as shown in Fig. 15(b). The developing roller 109c therefore does not slide on the sealing member 114 during developing operation, thereby reducing the rotational torque of the developing roller 109c, and thereby rendering extendable the duration period of the developing roller 109c. Such a sealing member is popularly used because it enjoys ~~enjoying~~ a merit such that it can be assembled more easily to the developing frame than other sealing members made of felt or rubber.

[0005]

In a case where such a magnetic sealing member is used, however, the toner may eventually enter in a space between the developing roller 109c and the sheet member 115 as shown in Fig. 15(b) because the sealing member 114 and the developing roller 109c are not in contact with each other. The toner may deposit on the sheet member 115, and a phenomenon h that the deposited toner pushes down the end of the sheet member 115 occurs. If such a phenomenon  $h$  occurs, the sealing capability at the end of the developing roller is reduced, and the toner may leak ~~be leaked~~ out of the end of the developing roller.

Please amend the paragraph starting at page 6, line 16 and ending at page 6, line 17 to read, as follows.

Fig. 15 is a diagram showing an end of a developing roller when viewed from an arrow ~~Arrow~~ X direction in Fig. 14.

Please amend paragraph [0012] at page 7 to read, as follows.

[0012]

It is to be noted that the process cartridge B of the invention has, as a combination, a toner frame 11 having a toner container 11a for containing toner, and a developing frame 12 holding a developing means, ~~means~~ such as a developing roller 9c. The process cartridge is structured in integrating with a photosensitive drum 7, a cleaning means 10 constituted of such as a cleaning blade 10a, and a cleaning frame 13 attaching a charging roller 8.

Please amend paragraph [0015] at page 8 to read, as follows.

[0015]

#### Image Forming Apparatus

First, referring to the drawings, a laser beam printer A as an image forming apparatus to which this embodiment of the invention applies, is described. This laser beam printer A is, as shown in Fig. 3, for forming images on recording media, e.g., recording paper, OHP sheets, fabrics, through an electrophotographic image forming process. Toner images are formed on a drum-shaped ~~drum-shaped~~ electrophotographic photosensitive body (hereinafter referred to as “photosensitive drum 7”).

Please amend paragraph [0018] at page 9 to read, as follows.

[0018]

Meanwhile, ~~In a meanwhile~~, as shown in Fig. 3, in synchrony with formation of the toner images, the recording medium is conveyed by a conveying means 3. That is, the recording medium 2 set in a feeding cassette 3a is reverse conveyed with a pickup roller 3b, conveyance roller pairs 3c, 3d, and a registration roller pair 3e.

Please amend paragraphs [0024] and [0025] at pages 11 and 12 to read, as follows.

[0024]

The magnetic sealing member 14 is further described in detail now. The magnetic sealing member 14 has the magnet 14a as one structural element made of an injection molded product having a width of 3 mm with a nylon binder including of Nd-Fe-B magnetic powder, and the magnetic plate 14b as another structural element made of an iron material having a thickness of 1 mm. Connection between the magnet 14a and the magnet plate 14 is formed by an insertion molding of the injection molding. The connection, however, can be made with adhesive, double-sided ~~double-side~~ adhesive tape, or attraction force connection solely from magnetic force. The gap between the developing roller 9c and the magnetic sealing member 14 is of 0.1 to 0.7 mm, and the magnetic flux density of the surface of the developing roller 9c at that time is about 1000 to 2000 G from the magnetic force of the magnetic sealing member 14. The positional relation between the magnet 14a and the magnetic plate 14b is that the magnet 14a is placed on an inner side in the longitudinal direction of the developing roller whereas the magnetic plate 14b is placed on an outer side.

[0025]

As other sealing members, the elastic sheet (sheet member) 15 made of, e.g., PET or urethane is arranged at the developing frame 12 along the longitudinal direction below the developing roller 9c, and the tip portion (free end) thereof is in elastic contact with the developing roller 9c. The end of the elastic sheet 15 in the longitudinal direction of the developing roller is overlapped with the magnetic sealing member 14, and is within the width of the magnetic sealing member 14 (see, Fig. 7). The tip portion of the elastic sheet 15 at that position is located within the gap g between the developing roller 9c and the magnetic sealing member 14. That is, an end of the tip of the elastic sheet in the longitudinal direction of the developing roller enters in a space between the developing roller and the magnetic sealing member. As shown in Fig. 6, an elastic body portion 17 made of a material, such as sponge, rubber or the like, is formed on a side closer to the developing frame with respect to the magnetic sealing member 14. That is, the magnetic sealing member has a magnet portion facing to the peripheral surface of the developing roller and an elastic body portion facing to the container side.

Please amend paragraphs [0028] and [0029] at pages 13 and 14 to read, as follows.

[0028]

#### Attaching Method of Elastic Sheet (Sheet Member) 15

Next, attachment of the elastic sheet 15 to the developing frame 12 is described. Fig. 9 is an illustration showing a state before the elastic sheet is attached to the developing frame; Fig. 10 is an illustration showing a state after the elastic sheet is attached to the developing frame. As shown in the drawings, the elastic sheet 15 is attached to an

attaching surface 12b of the developing frame 12 by a double-sided ~~double-side~~ adhesive tape 15a. The double-sided ~~double-side~~ adhesive tape 15a is designed to extend longer toward the sheet front end side at the opposite end portions in the longitudinal direction so as to overlap with an elastic body 17 between the magnetic sealing member 14 and the developing frame 12, or namely, an elastic body formed at the magnetic sealing member on a side of the developing frame. Therefore, the end of the double-sided ~~double-side~~ adhesive tape in the longitudinal direction is in a letter-L shape.

[0029]

With the above structure, the end in the longitudinal direction of the elastic sheet 15 contacting to the developing roller 9c does not separate from the developing roller by the toner existing in the gap g between the magnetic sealing member 14 and the developing roller 9c, so that the elastic sheet can made contacting to the developing roller stably. This apparatus also prevents the toner from leaking to the exterior of the developing frame 12 upon an entry of the toner through a space between the sheet lower sealing member 16 and the wall 12a1 on the side of elastic sheet attaching surface of the developing frame 12, or namely a space between the sheet lower sealing member 16 and the magnetic sealing member 14 in the longitudinal direction of the developing roller. The double-sided ~~double-side~~ adhesive tape 15a of the elastic sheet 15 is overlapped to the end sealing member 17, so that leaking of the toner to the exterior of the developing frame between the end sealing member 17 and the elastic sheet 15 is surely prevented. ~~prevented surely.~~

Please amend paragraph [0031] at page 15 to read, as follows.

[0031]

#### Attaching Method of Elastic Sheet 15

Although in the first embodiment the sheet lower sealing member 16 is made in the letter-L shape as the auxiliary member, a sheet lower sealing member 18 as shown in Fig. 11 is in a square shape or rectangular shape when viewed from the top (upper side in Fig. 4) in this invention. A double-sided ~~double-side~~ adhesive tape 19 as an attaching member for the elastic sheet 15 is extended longer toward the front end side of the elastic sheet 15 across the entire region in the longitudinal direction. In such a case, it should be so set that the elastic sheet does not remove the toner on the developing roller caused by too high contacting pressure of the elastic sheet to the developing roller. With this structure, substantially the same effect can be obtained.